

Directorate of Public Works-Environmental

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DPW Environmental plans Fort Hood Earth Day Celebration



Fort Hood will be reflecting on the environment and its future through its Earth Day Celebration on April 22. Fort Hood will join Soldiers and installations around the globe to recognize the importance of working together to *Sustain the Environment for a Secure Future*.

On April 22 communities around the nation will be celebrating Earth Day. Fort Hood will kick off its Earth Day celebration April 22, Saturday at 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in front of the Clear Creek PX. "Earth Day is a time of environmental education and celebration," said Steve Burrow, Directorate of Public Works Chief of Environmental Programs. "Although the community comes together on Earth Day to make a difference in the environment," said Burrow, "everyday matters, everyday should be Earth Day."

"There are simple everyday decisions that can make a difference," Burrow said. "Turning off lights when you leave the room; not letting the water run while shaving or brushing teeth; and recycling paper and cardboard are ways to make a difference."

Environmental organizations and divisions will be at Fort Hood's Earth Day celebration to pass out materials and increase environmental awareness. "It will be a fun family event with free activities," said Burrow, "but also an opportunity to learn a little more about what you can do at home, work, and in the community to help preserve our environment for future generations."

"DPW knows family time is important for Soldiers," said Kevin Scholz, Earth Day Coordinator and DPW's Municipal Storm Water Specialist. "Fort Hood Earth Day is not only an environmental and educational event but a family event."

"Families can come out and have a good time for free!," said Scholz.

"DPW Environmental has been working hard to make this the best Earth Day event for the Fort Hood community," said Bobby Poff, Earth Day Coordinator and DPW's Air Quality Specialist. "The Clear Creek PX and Commissary have shown great support to help coordinate this event," said Poff, "and because of their assistance there will be door prizes and free refreshments."

Earth Day activities for the family will include a SeaWorld San Antonio animal exhibit from 10 a.m.-11 a.m., household hazardous waste turn-in, a hybrid vehicle demonstration, pet adoption,

native plant sale, a climbing wall, moonwalks, free refreshments, lots of door prizes and more. This event is free for the whole family.

There will be several educational exhibits about Fort Hood's environmental programs and how you can save money while protecting the environment.

"Education and communication is important for teaching the community about sustainability and protecting our environment for our Soldiers, their families, and future generations," Burrow said.

"DPW Environmental has resources to help the Fort Hood community and workers," said Burrow, "like the household hazardous waste turn-in, the recycling program, and environmental training."

Fort Hood offers a household hazardous waste turn-in service at the Classification Unit on North Avenue and 37th Street. The household hazardous materials reuse program helps Soldiers, their families, and civilians working on Fort Hood. This free service allows for household hazardous materials like cleaners and batteries to be collected when people leave the installation and reissued, for free, to arriving families.

The Fort Hood Recycling Center collects and processes plastics, cardboard, paper, and other materials to divert these recyclables from going into the landfill and avoiding thousands of dollars in fees to Fort Hood.

DPW Environmental also has an Environmental Trainer who aids Soldiers and civilians through an environmental training program that requires every unit, tenant, and contractor have a trained Environmental Compliance Officer (ECO). During the 40-hour ECO course, attendants are briefed on Department of Defense and Fort Hood environmental policies and regulations.

"DPW Environmental is committed to being environmentally proactive and educating Soldiers, contractors, civilians, and the public about sustainable principles and practice," said Burrow.

"*'Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future,'* reflects our (the Army's) view that this is a critical responsibility we all share. Everyday, ask yourself how you can improve operations while meeting today's needs and anticipating tomorrow's challenges," said Gen Peter J. Schoomaker, United States Army Chief of Staff in the 2006 Earth Day memorandum.

For more information about Earth Day contact DPW at 288-5284 or 287-9812.